

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British Trade*, &c.

From Saturday, July 25. to Tuesday, July 27. 1713.

The mortal Blow to the SCHEME, promised in the last.

The Report made by the Commissioners of the Customs to the House of Lords.

An Abstract of the Difference of Exportations between the out-Ports and the Port of London, to prove the Reckoning the out-Ports to be One third of the Port of London, to be a false Rule.

More of several sorts of Manufactures, and other Goods, Exported from the out-Ports, than from London.

THE last *MERCATOR* led things back of Course to that shameful Paper, to give it no worse a Title, called, The *SCHEME*; the thing it self can by no means be worth so much Notice; but the weight put upon it by those People, who handed it about as an Authentick Proof of the smallness of our Trade to France, makes the speaking so often of it become necessary.

The Charge of Falsity, which was laid upon it in this Paper, has been answered no otherwise, but by the old way which was formerly said to be practised against *Bellarmino*; and that even this too may be effectually Silenced, the following Paper, presented to the House of Lords by the Commissioners of the Customs, is added to what has been said before, and, it is hoped, may be sufficient.

The modesty of the Commissioners, in taking so little notice of the gross Collusion and fraudulent Design of the *SCHEME*, concealing the true Quantities, underrating the value of the Woollen Manufactures Exported, over-rating the value of the French Goods Imported, and the like; ought to be no Objection against this Report; the Matters of Fact will have their due Weight, with considering and upright Men, tho' not farther enlarged upon: But this, in the mean time, may be observed, (viz.) That the Omissions on one Side, and the Additions to the other, are so great in this Paper, that if things are justly Estimated on both Sides, and the Export of the out-Ports added, as they ought to be, the French Trade will appear, even in THAT very Year, to be very much to the Advantage of England, as will be more particularly Explain'd, and prov'd hereafter. Mean time, the following Report may put all the Patrons of the *SCHEME* to Silence, unless they can detect the said Report of being False, which they will not be able to do.

To the Right Honorable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament Assembled.

May it please your Lordships,

YOUR Lordships having been pleased, in your Order of the 17th Instant, to direct the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs to lay before your Lordships such Objections as appear to them, in rela-

tion to the Scheme of Trade between England and France, which they laid before your Lordships on the 13th Instant: In Obedience thereunto, the said Commissioners do humbly report, that at the foot of the Account of the Woollen and Silk Manufactures in the said Scheme the following Words; (viz.) *This was the full of what was Exported according to the Custom-house Books in the Port of London from Michaelmas 1668. to Michaelmas 1669.* They compared the said Account with the Exports of the Woollen Manufactures in the Custom-house Books of the Port of London, Extracts whereof are now lying before your Lordships; by which they find, there was greater Quantities of Woollen Manufacture Exported from London that Year, than is mentioned in the Scheme: as will appear to your Lordships by the following Comparisons; viz.

<i>Names of the Species.</i>	<i>Quantities by the Scheme.</i>	<i>Quantities by the Custom-house Books.</i>
Pieces of Norwich Stuffs.	354	1701
Pieces of Serges and Perpetuana's	5564	7581
Pieces of single Bays	2288	1660
Small Minikin Bays	166	168
Small double Bays	464	286
Dozen Mens worsted Hose	2140	5820
Dozen Mens woollen Hose	832	
Dozen Childrens Hose	1172	
Yards of Flannel	400	1215
Hundred Goads of Cotton	1200	1024
Long Cloths	112	349
Short Cloths	42	54
		Spanish



Spanish Cloths	829	2349
Double Northern Doz.	97	305
Single Northern Species	69	162
Peniflones	6	161
Kerfies	3585	5097

“ Several of the out-Port Books being wanting, for
“ the Year mentioned in the Scheme, whereby the Com-
“ missioners might judge of the Proportion the out-
“ Ports bear to London, in the Exportation of the
“ Woollen Manufacture to France; they caused the
“ Accounts of other Years, which have been lately
“ prepared, by Order of the House of Commons, to
“ be Examined, and find, that the Proportion of One
“ third for the out-Ports, being the allowance men-
“ tioned in the Scheme, is not a sufficient Proportion;
“ for as much as it appears by those Accounts, that
“ the quantities of Stuffs and Serges Exported, which
“ are considerable Articles of the Woollen Manufactures
“ in the Trade to France, were much greater in those
“ Years from the out-Ports, than from the Port of
“ London.

“ The Commissioners observe, that the Goods from
“ the British Plantations, as Sugar, Cotton, Tobacco,
“ &c. and also those from India, and other Foreign
“ Parts, Re-exported from this Kingdom to France,
“ which amount to a very considerable Sum, are not
“ taken Notice of in the said Scheme; and tho’ they
“ are not of the Product and Manufacture of Eng-
“ land, yet they humbly conceive, they should not have
“ been omitted in a Ballance, of the Exports to, and
“ Imports from France.

“ The Commissioners do likewise humbly take No-
“ tice to your Lordships, that the Accounts of Impor-
“ tations by the Scheme, being Computations for all

“ England, in gross Articles; the Commissioners on
“ this Occasion making no Objections, but from Facts
“ appearing in the Books of the Customs, cannot enter
“ into an Examination of that part, because several
“ Books out of the out-Ports for that Year, as they
“ have before reported, are wanting.

“ From all which, the Commissioners humbly con-
“ clude, the said Scheme could not be taken from the
“ Custom-House Books; and they are confirmed in their
“ Opinion, because they do not find any Notice taken
“ of that Scheme in their Office, that the same was
“ prepared by Order of the Commissioners of the
“ Customs.

All which is humbly submitted to your
Lordships Consideration.

Custom-House, London,
23 June, 1713.

E. Gibbon.
J. Stanley.
J. Bridges.
Robert Williamson.

It may be worth observing after this, That the Com-
missioners of the Customs have said, in their Report
above, that the Computation made by the SCHEME,
between the Port of London and the out-Ports, is not
just, (viz.) That One third is sufficient to Rate for the
out-Ports, and Two thirds for the Port of London;
and the Commissioners add, that the quantities of se-
veral Woollen Manufactures Exported to France, were
much greater in those Years from the out-Ports, than
from the Port of London.

That this is true, may be necessary to prove; and to
that End, the Exportations of several sorts of Goods
to France, in the Years 1686-7, and 1687-8. as well
Woollen Manufactures, as others, are brought in here,
by way of Testimony, to what the Commissioners have
said; the quantities whereof, both in the Port of Lon-
don, and the out-Ports, as it is drawn out of the Ac-
counts of the Custom-House, laid before the House of
Commons; are as follows,

Goods Exported to France in the Year
1686-7, or 1687-8.

Bayes	_____	_____	_____
Cloth Rashcs	_____	_____	_____
Serges and Perpetuana's	_____	_____	_____
Stuffs and Sayes	_____	_____	_____
Fustians	_____	_____	_____
Devon Dozens	_____	_____	_____
Tann'd Leather per l.	_____	_____	_____
Tann'd Hides	_____	_____	_____
Herrings	_____	per Barrel	_____
Alom	_____	per Ton	_____
Tobacco	_____	_____	_____
Tin	_____	_____	_____
Wrought Pewter	_____	_____	_____

Port of London.	Out-Ports.	The Out-Ports more than the Port of Lond.
1230½	2889½	1659
24	557	533
5886	25569	19683
484	1211	727
254	512	258
_____	5310	5310
69672	688798	619126
_____	224	224
1068	14085	13017
17 13 C.	195	177
l. 169778	325903	156125
l. 221822	258168	36346
_____	14184	14184

And the like of other Goods.

By this may be seen, how unjust it is to Calculate the
Exportation of the out-Ports to amount to but One
third of the whole Exportation of Woollen Manu-
factures; the Reason of which is, because the proper
Ports for the Exportation of those Goods being near
the Countries, where they are made, great quantities

of them are Exported immediately at the next Ports,
without being sent up to London at all, as the Serges
from Exmouth, the Dozens from Weymouth, the
Norwich Stuffs from Yarmouth, Bays from Colchester,
the Lead at Hull, Tin at Falmouth, &c. and the like of
Fish, very little of which can go from London.